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GUIANA:
GEOGRAPHICAL
AND
HISTORICAL.



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GUIANA:

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

For the Use of Schools.

BY J. O. BAGDON,

NORMAL MASTER OF BISHOP'S COLLEGE.

DEMERARA:

R. SHORT, GEORGETOWN.

1857.

PREFACE.

THIS little book, as may be seen from its title-page, is not intended to supersede the use of any of the larger and more complete works on Guiana which have been already published, but to serve as an introduction to them, and hence to a more general diffusion of the knowledge of its geography and history, by introducing these subjects into our Colonial Schools. The want of a book suitable for children has long been felt by all engaged in tuition. I have therefore endeavoured to produce a *School Book*.

As this work does not lay claim to much originality of matter, it follows, as a natural consequence, that the greater part of it must have been compiled from existing works. I am especially indebted to the following: Dalton's "History of British Guiana," Schomburgk's "Guiana," Schomburgk's "Illustrations of the Interior of Guiana," and Brett's "Indian Missions."

The particular passages taken from these works have not been noticed in their proper places, because I have learnt by experience that asterisks, daggers.

foot-notes, &c., tend greatly to puzzle the class of readers for whose use this book is intended: it is therefore hoped that this general confession may screen me from the charge of plagiarism.

Those who desire to obtain a more complete knowledge of Guiana and its inhabitants than may here be found, will do well to read the following works, besides those before mentioned:—Davy's "West Indies, before and since Emancipation," Bolingbroke's "Demerara," Bancroft's "Guiana," "The Local Guide of British Guiana for 1843," Stedman's "Surinam," Wallace's "Travels on the Amazon," and Humboldt's "Travels in Central America."

BISHOP'S COLLEGE,

May 23, 1857.

GUIANA.

GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

GUIANA, Guyana, Guayana, or Guianna, is the name given to a large tract of the South American continent, lying between the parallels of $8^{\circ} 40' N.$ lat. and $3^{\circ} 30' S.$ lat., and 50° and $68^{\circ} W.$ long. Its boundaries are the Atlantic Ocean on the east and north-east, the River Orinoco on the north and north-west, the River Amazon on the south, the River Negro on the south-west, and the natural Canal of Cassiquiare, which connects the Negro and Orinoco, on the west. Its greatest length, measured from North Cape to the confluence of the Rio Xie and the Rio Negro, is about 1260 miles; its greatest breadth, or the distance between Punta Barima, at the mouth of the Orinoco, and the confluence of the Rio Negro and the Amazon, is about 820 miles. Its superficial extent is from 800,000 to 900,000 square miles. Its natural divisions are three:—

1. THE ALLUVIAL FLAT bordering the coast from the Orinoco to the Amazon, a distance of 750 miles, and terminating at the foot of a range of sand hills from 30 to 120 feet high. Its breadth varies from 10 to 40 miles. This region contains the principal European settlements and plantations.

2. THE HILL COUNTRY, comprising the mountainous districts, which are covered with luxuriant vegetation, and produce great quantities of valuable timber.

3. THE SAVANNAHS, or open plains, covered with grasses and a few stunted trees. The smaller Savannas, lying

between the Rivers Demerara and Corentyn, approach within two miles of the Berbice coast. The larger Savannahs of the Rupununi, extending between the Pacaraimi, Carawaimi, and Cannucu mountains, occupy about 14,000 square miles.

Its political divisions are five :—

1. The Brazilian or Portuguese, containing more than one-half of the whole of Guiana, occupies the southern and south-western portions.

2. The Venezuelian or Spanish, containing one-fourth of the whole, occupies the northern and north-western portions.

Between these and bordering on the Atlantic lie—

3. British Guiana ;

4. Dutch Guiana, or Surinam ;

5. French Guiana, or Cayenne.

MOUNTAINS.—Three great chains branch off from the Andes, nearly at right angles, and stretch eastward across the continent of South America: the central of these, which leaves the main trunk between the third and fourth parallels of N. lat., is the principal mountain range of Guiana. It is generally called the Cordillera of Parimé; but by Humboldt it is named the “Cordillera of the Cataracts of the Orinoco.” It is but little known. Its mean elevation is estimated at 4000 feet, but many of its summits are much higher. Mount Maravaca, between 3° and 4° N. lat., and 65° and 66° W. long., is 11,000 feet; and about 60 miles eastward is Mount Putubiri, which is 5000 feet high. About the 60th degree W. long. this chain is divided into three branches, which, with their offsets, form the most important mountains of British and French Guianas.

The first of these branches, the Sierra d’Acarai, runs in a south-easterly direction till it approaches the line about the 59th degree W. long., whence it runs eastward through Cayenne and Brazil, and terminates near the mouth of the Amazon. Its highest point, Kaiawako, is about 4000 feet above the sea. The eastern part of this chain is called the Sierra Tumucuraque; spurs extend southward towards the Amazon, forming the Sierra de Paru and the Sierra de Mont-Ealegre, which are from 300 to 1000 feet high.

The second branch, the Carawaimi Mountains, situated between the 2nd and 3rd parallels N. lat., attains a height of 2500 feet.

The third branch, the Pacaraima Mountains, whose name is said to be derived from the Indian word *Pacara*, signifying a basket, is situated about the 4th parallel N. lat., and has an elevation of 1500 feet.

The Ouangouwai, or Mountains of the Sun, form the connecting link between the Sierra d' Acarai and the Carawaimi Mountains.

The Cannucu or Conocon connect the Sierra d' Acarai with the Pacaraima; and the Tarapona Mountains lie between the Carawaimi, Cannucu, and the Pacaraima Mountains.

About the 5th parallel N. lat. there is another range, an offshoot from the Orinoco Mountains, with which it is connected by the Sierra Ussipama: it is the central ridge of the British and Dutch colonies, forms numerous and large cataracts in the rivers whose beds it crosses, is connected with the Sierra d' Acarai by the Marowini Mountains, and is considered by Schomburgk as the old boundary of the Atlantic. The highest peaks, according to the same authority, are the St. George on the Mazaruni, the Twasinki and the Maccarai on the Essequibo (the latter rising 1100 feet above the river), and the Itabrou on the Berbice, which is 662 feet above the river and 828 above the sea.

The Roraima, or Red Rock, situated in $5^{\circ} 9' 30''$ N. lat. and $60^{\circ} 47'$ W. long., and belonging to the Pacaraima range, runs 5000 feet above the adjacent table land, and 7500 above the sea. This was the highest point observed by Schomburgk in British Guiana. The highest point observed by Humboldt was the Mountain of Duida or Yeonamari, which has an elevation of 8465 feet. It is situated near the junction of the Cassiquiare and the Orinoco.

The Makarapan, situated near the Rupununi, in $3^{\circ} 50'$ N. lat., attains a height of 3500 feet.

The Sierra Tinataca is a mountain range of inconsiderable height, running in a south-easterly direction from the Delta of the Orinoco to the mouth of the Essequibo.

The Unturin or Tapira-pe-Ru, and the Pirabuku mountains, lie between the Equator and 2° N. lat., and 65° and 67° W. long.

The following are isolated mountains, some being mere rocks:—Ataraipu, or the Devil's Rock, on the western bank of the River Guidaru, in $2^{\circ} 55'$ N. lat., and $58^{\circ} 48'$ W. long., is 1300 feet high. Puré-Piapa, or the Felled Tree, in N. lat. $3^{\circ} 59'$, and $59^{\circ} 28'$ W. long., is a basaltic

column resembling the trunk of some large old tree deprived of its leafy crown. It rises perpendicularly to the height of 50 feet. Half a mile eastward from this is another rock, rising from 60 to 80 feet above the plain, and called by the Macusis, Canuyé-Piapa, or the guava-tree-stump. In this neighbourhood is a third rock called Mara-Etshiba.

There are no active volcanoes now to be found in Guiana, but extinct ones are supposed to exist in the neighbourhood of the Roraima, and the detached mounts of the *bassts-terres* of Cayenne have similar origin.

RIVERS.—The rivers of Guiana may be divided into two classes.

1. Those which rise in the Cordillera of Parimé, and flow northwards to the Orinoco and southwards to the Amazon.

The upper Orinoco, although flowing to the ocean, belongs to this class; it has its sources in the mountains of Tapira-pe-Ru, and flows with a very circuitous course among the mountains of Parimé, descends into the low country by the great falls of Maypures and Atures; thence its course is easterly to the Atlantic. Its whole length is 1500 miles; it is navigable 700 miles. The lower Orinoco (*i. e.*, from the great falls), is not generally reckoned among the rivers of Guiana.

The Ventuari, the Tortuga-Caura, the Arni, the Paragua, the Caroni, the Paramu, fall into the Orinoco.

The Maturaca and Cababuri rise in the Pirabuku Mountains; the Maraviha, the Daraha, the Paranna or Rio Preto, and the Padaviri rise in Mount Unturin: all these and the Uaracca fall into the River Negro.

The Parima, Urariquera or Rio Branco has its sources near those of the Orinoco; its course is eastward for 300 miles, when it is joined by the Takutu from the north-east about N. lat. 3° and 60° W. long.; thence it flows south-west to the Rio Negro, which it joins about 1° S. lat.

2. The most important and also the best known are those which, rising in the interior, flow northwards into the Atlantic Ocean. They form the connecting link and only means of communication between the inhabited civilized shores and the lonely but romantic interior, and “present the extraordinary facilities for inland navigation which distinguish the Guianas, and afford the best guarantee for the developement of the resources afforded by this prolific *soil and humid climate*.” They were first explored by

Capt. Laurens Keymis, who visited these shores in 1596, and stated that there were no less than sixty-seven.

The most important are the Essequibo, called by the Indians inhabiting the coast, the Aranauma—and the brother of the Orinoco; by the Taraumas, the Coatyang Kityon; by the Macusis, the Sipon; by the Dutch, the Dessekeber; and is supposed to have received its present name from one of the officers of Diego Columbus, Don Juan Essequibel. It rises in the Sierra d' Acarai, forty-one miles north of the equator, flows north and north-east, and after a course of 640 miles falls into the Atlantic. Its chief tributaries are, from the east, the Caneruan and Wapau; from the west, the Camoa, the Cassi, the Cuyuwini, which rises in the Carawaimi Mountains and joins the Essequibo in 2° 16' N. lat.; the Rapununi, rises in the same mountains, receives the waters of the Arariquru and the united Guidaru and Roiwa—it joins the Essequibo in 4° N. lat.; the Siparuni, or Red River; the Potaro, or Black River; the Mazaruni, rises in the Pacaraima Mountains, receives the waters of the Puruni, and after a course of 400 miles, falls into the Essequibo, about 20 miles from its mouth; the Cuyuni, rises in the Sierra Imataca, and after flowing 380 miles falls into the Mazaruni, about eight miles from its confluence with the Essequibo. The Mazaruni is navigable to the Isle of Caria, and the Essequibo to the Itabally rapids, a distance of 50 miles. During the last 20 miles of its course it is from 15 to 20 miles wide. The entrance to this river is rendered dangerous by shoals and sandbanks; the best and safest of its channels is that between Leguan and the east shore, which has a depth of from two to four fathoms.

The *Demerara* rises in the Maccarai Mountains, in 4° 30' N. lat., flows nearly parallel to the Essequibo, and after a course of about 200 miles falls into the Atlantic. It is about two miles wide at its mouth, and is navigable to the Kaicontshi rapids, nearly 120 miles from Georgetown. It has no tributaries worthy of notice. A bar of mud extends four miles to seaward, having nine feet of water at half-flood.

The *Berbice* takes its rise about the third parallel N. lat., approaches within nine miles of the Essequibo in 3° 55', receives the waters of the Wickie and Canje from the east and the Waironi from the west, and after a course of 320 miles falls into the Atlantic, 57 miles eastward from the Demerara. It is navigable 165 miles.

The *Corentyn* rises in the Ouanguwai Mountains, about 25 miles east of the Essequibo. It receives the Cabalaba from the south in 5° N. lat; the Paruru and the Maipuri from the west; and, near its mouth, the Nickerie from the east. Its course is very tortuous, between the confluence of the Paruru and the Maipuri it describes nearly a circle. Its length is not less than 500 miles, and it is navigable 150 miles. From 5° 55' N. lat to its embouchure it forms an estuary from 10 to 18 miles wide, impeded by mud and sand-banks; its deepest channel is only eight and a half feet deep at low water.

The *Surinam*, formerly called the Great Coma, has its sources in the Sierra d' Acarai, and flows through the centre of Dutch Guiana, to which province it gives its own name, and falls into the Atlantic after a course of 300 miles. It is navigable 120 miles.

The *Maroni* or *Marawini* and the *Oyapok* rise in the same mountains, and flow northward to the Atlantic. The length of the first is 250 miles; of the second, 100 miles.

The following rivers are small, and are frequently called creeks; they all pour their waters into the Atlantic:—the Barima, the Guiana or Waini, the Moruca, and the Pomeroun, rise in the Sierra Imataca; the Mahaica, the Mahaicony (so called from the mahogany trees growing on its banks), and the Abari, lie between the rivers Demerara and Berbice. The Comowini, or Little Coma, the Cottica, the Copename, and the Seramica are in Dutch Guiana, to the eastward of the Surinam.

LAKES.—“The geological structure of the great savannahs,” says Schomburgk, “leave little doubt that it was once the bed of an inland lake, which by one of those catastrophes of which even later ages give us examples, broke its barriers, and forced for itself a passage to the Atlantic.” The traditions respecting this inland sea of bygone ages gave rise to the fable of El Dorado. The small lake Amucu, situated to the north of the Cannucu Mountains, is now its representative. In the dry season it is only about three miles in length, and overgrown with rushes; but during the rainy periods it overflows its banks, and floods the surrounding country; its superabundant waters at length find an outlet to the eastward through the River Rupununi, and to the westward through the Rio Branco.

The small lake called Broadwater is situated between the rivers Berbice and Corentyn, in 5½° N. lat. It is connected by the River Icaruwa with the Canje.

The Wakapoa, Akawini, and Tapacuma lakes are situated in the swampy country between the Essequibo and the Orinoco, to the north-east of the Sierra Imataca.

ISLANDS.—The principal islands are situated in the estuaries of the great rivers.

In the Essequibo are Wakenaam and Hog Island, each about 15 miles in length; Leguan about 12 miles in length; Tiger Island, Quoquaraba, Capoue, Fort Island, and many smaller ones. Opposite the point of land formed by the junction of the Rivers Mazaruni and Cuyuni is Kyk-over-al, and 20 miles further up the Mazaruni is Caria.

In the Demerara, 20 miles from its mouth are Borselen and three others.

Crab Island is in the mouth of the Berbice.

In the Corentyn are Mocco-mocco, Maam or Kokers, the Baboon Islands, Long Island, and the Parrot Islands. Cayenne is situated near the coast of French Guiana.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

GUIANA, though situated in the torrid zone, enjoys a more temperate climate than those regions of Asia and Africa which are under the same latitude. In the districts along the shores of the Atlantic, the mean temperature for the year is 81° Fahrenheit, the maximum 90°, the minimum 74°. In the interior the thermometer has a greater range, sometimes varying from 12° to 35° in a few hours; the maximum is about 95° in the shade, and the minimum 60°. During the greater part of the year a strong north-east wind prevails, which gives a refreshing coolness to the atmosphere: it usually begins about 8 or 9 a.m., and gradually dies away about sunset, but occasionally continues throughout the night. During the months of July and August there is frequently a land breeze from the west and south-west, which, coming from the vast forests and savannahs is very unhealthy. The year is divided into four seasons,—two wet and two dry. The great dry season commences towards the end of August, and continues till the end of November; after which the rains fall until the middle of February, when the short dry season commences, and continues till the middle of April; the long wet season then sets in, and lasts till August. The change of the seasons is marked by severe thunder storms

the flashes of lightning are very vivid, but fatal accidents seldom occur. Shocks of earthquake are sometimes felt, but they are so slight as to be scarcely noticed.

The low lands of the coast, and those adjacent to the chief rivers, consist of a blue clay impregnated with marine salt and decayed vegetable matter, which forms a rich and highly productive mould, resting on a bed of granite, and is from 50 to 200 feet in depth. This district is succeeded by one of much less fertility, consisting chiefly of ranges of hills and detached groups of hillocks of white and yellow sand. The mountains are generally composed of masses of granite, traversed by veins of quartz, porphyry, gneiss, and trappean rocks. The other parts of the country are generally covered with trees and shrubs, constituting what is called "the bush," or consist of open plains covered with grass, called "savannahs."

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

ANIMAL KINGDOM.

MAMMALIA.—This term is applied to those animals which bring forth their young alive. It is derived from the Latin word *mamma*, which signifies the breast, udder, or part of the female which contains the milk.

Quadrumanæ, *i. e.*, the four-handed. This order includes the baboons, monkeys, &c. They are divided into two classes:—1st. Those with tails prehensile: such are the howling baboon or red howler, by some called the preacher; the Sajou, or weeping monkey; the horned or tufted Sapajou; the Capuchins; the Quata or Coaita; and three or four varieties of spider monkeys, the largest of which is called the Beelzebub. 2nd. Those with tails not prehensile, termed also Sakis and Sagouins; as the Cuxid, or black-faced; the Yarkee, or white-faced; and the red-bellied, red-bearded, and yellow-headed monkeys. There are also many other species of small monkeys, the most elegant of all being the Marmoset. Most kinds are killed and eaten by the Indians.

Carnivora, *i. e.*, the flesh-devouring. The animals belonging to this order found in the western hemisphere do not equal in number, size, or ferocity, those of the eastern: this is especially true of the feline race. To this class *belong the Jaguar*, commonly called the tiger, but more *properly the ounce*; when old this animal is almost black,

which has given rise to the opinion that a black species existed in the forests of South America. The Puma or lion, the black tiger-cat, the Labba tiger-cat, and several other varieties. The foregoing, with the skunk, otter, and dog, belong to the class called *digitigrade*, *i. e.*, walking on the toes. The crab-dog, the racoon, the Coatimonde or quacy-quacy, the Potto-kinkajou, and three varieties of the galietis, belong to the class called *plantigrade*, *i. e.*, walking on the sole of the foot. The sloth, the anteater, and the armadillo are *edentata*, *i. e.*, toothless animals. The opossum belongs to the order called *marsupial*, or pouch-bearing.

Those animals which, when killed, afford a wholesome and delicate food for man are numerous; such are the Tapir or Maipuri, the Water-haas or Capibara, the Agouti or Acouri, the Acouchi (called by the natives Atouri), the Bakkir, the Pingo, the Peccari or Mexican Hog, the Cairuni or wild hog, and a third species of hog called the Apida, which is of a dark-brown colour, the Labba, and several kinds of deer—as the Bush deer (called by the Indians Baica), the Savannah deer, the Cane-piece deer, and the Wirrebouriciri.

Most of the domesticated animals of Europe have also been introduced by the colonists. Cattle are not reared in sufficient numbers to supply the market, therefore great numbers are imported, chiefly from the Spanish provinces of Venezuela and Orinoco. Goats are very numerous, and thrive excellently. There are few sheep, and these, on account of the great heat, produce no wool.

The beasts of burden are the horse, the mule, and the ass. Dogs are very numerous, but generally lean and wretched looking animals.

Of the cetaceous animals only two species are found here, the Delphinus Amazonicus, a kind of dolphin, found in the Amazon and its tributaries, and the Manati, Laman-tine or sea cow, which is an amphibious animal, *i. e.*, it lives both on land and in water.

BIRDS.—The birds of Guiana are very numerous—more than four hundred species are enumerated by Cabanis, many of them covered with plumage of the most gaudy colours, scarlet, blue, purple, and yellow; others afford excellent food, but few are good songsters.

Birds of Prey.—Of vultures, or carrion crows, there are found three species; of owls, seven species; of the eagles, hawks, falcons, and kites, nearly forty species.

One of the most common birds seen around the dwellings of man is the Kiskadi, which belongs to the family of shrikes, of which there are several varieties. The Bell bird, called by the Indians Dara, and by the Spaniards Campanero, a beautiful white bird; and the magnificent Cock of the Rock, are found in the forests. The Tanagers, as the blue, grey, black, and brown Sakis, are very common. Thrushes, wrens, flycatchers, martins, swallows, goatsuckers (called by the French Engoutevent, *i. e.*, swallowers of the wind), yellow-plantain birds, robins, rice birds or Surinam crows, the Ibibirou, and the beautiful little humming birds, are generally found in the cultivated districts. The kingfisher, the houton, the parrot, the parroquet, the woodpecker, the barbot, the cuckoo, the Towcan or bill bird, the Macaw or ara, and the bright yellow and black mocking birds inhabit the woods.

The birds commonly known in Europe as poultry are found here in a domestic state, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons, guinea fowls, &c. Many kinds of game, such as the Guans or yacous, a kind of pheasant, the Tinamou or maam, the Douraquara or partridge, the quail, several kinds of wood pigeon, wild ducks, plovers, the Trumpeter or warracoba, the Sun bird (called by the Spaniards Tirana), the Imperial Boat Bill, spoonbills, herons, storks, bitterns, woodcocks, the Camouche, Coot or water hen, the flamingo, and gulls, are frequently met with.

The frigate bird, the pelican, and cormorant, are sometimes found on the coasts.

In Guiana only four or five species of bats are found. The largest is the much dreaded Vampire, which measures from twenty-four to twenty-five inches across the wings.

REPTILES.—Turtles and tortoises are frequently found on the banks of the rivers, in the wooded heights, and in sandy places: some of the largest kind weigh as much as 100 lbs. There are two kinds of land turtle, and seven of fresh water tortoises; the latter are most numerous in the Essequibo and its tributaries. The sea-turtle, the large-mouthed tortoise or chelys, and the soft-shelled tortoise, are occasionally met with.

Of the Saurian tribe the Caiman or alligator of the Essequibo is the largest. These creatures are frequently found in many parts of the colony. The Guana, the *Salempenta* or *El Mateo*, and many other species of lizards are very numerous.

Serpents are said to abound in the forests, but are seldom found in the cultivated districts. The non-venomous are the boa-constrictor, the Camoudi, the whip snake, the coral snake, and several varieties of water-snakes. The venomous snakes are the brown and yellow Labarri, the parrot snake, the guana snake, the rattlesnake, the Bush-master (called by the Indians Kunukusi or Courracouchi), and other species of vipers.

Toads and frogs exist in large numbers. The most remarkable are those which live on the trees; they take prodigious leaps, and spring with great agility from leaf to leaf. The peculiar formation of their feet enables them to adhere firmly to the leaves and branches of trees, the walls of houses, and even to the smooth surface of glass.

FISH.—The coasts, rivers, streams, and canals of Guiana abound with various kinds of fish, which form an important article of food for the negroes and Indians. Sharks are very numerous near the mouths of the rivers, and sword fish are frequently found.

The principal salt-water fish are the saw-fish, snook, Jew-fish or grooper, shad, bashaw; also, found in fresh water, snapper, pilot-fish, mullet, goby, gilbagre or gill-bachar, and herrings; prawns, shrimps, and other shell-fish are caught off the coasts; and even the trenches produce a small fish, called Hassar, which is eaten by the poor.

The fresh-water fish are the Sudis-gigas, a large fish weighing from two to three hundred pounds; the Lau-lau, nearly as heavy as the former; Yacuta, carp, salmon, pike, doras, arcus, dawalla, cartalac, pirapoco or pirapu, pirai or huma, called also the black saw-bellied salmon, arowana, and electric eel.

Crabs are very numerous on the mud flats of the coasts and trenches; the most common species are the Bonoori, the Cancer-uca-una, and the Jumbi—the flesh of the last is said to be poisonous.

INSECTS.—Innumerable swarms of winged and creeping creatures meet the eye in every direction. The bush-spider or Tarantula (called by the French the Araignées-crabes), the bird-spider, and the scorpion are found in the woods. Other varieties of spiders, centipedes, and cockroaches inhabit old buildings and the dwellings of man. The bite of the Tarantula, centipede, and scorpion, is very painful, but not dangerous. Mosquitoes are the great pest of the low lands, but are not found in the high lands of

the interior. The Chigoe, or jigger as it is commonly called, is a kind of flea, mostly found in warm sandy soils. Beetles, hardbacks, weevils, and grasshoppers, attracted by the light of the candle or lamp, are the evening nuisances within doors, while the beautiful little fire-fly may be continually seen without, glancing from bough to bough. Several species of that curious insect the Mantis, generally known as the walking-leaf, the God-horse, the dried stick, and the praying Mantis, are common. Bugs and lice often do great mischief to the trees and plants; but the most destructive creatures are ants, which sometimes attack and destroy a whole field of provisions in one night; they also infest houses, doing great injury to the beams, rafters, and flooring. Their nests may be found in gardens, by the road-side, and on the branches of trees. Saw-flies, gall-flies, wasps, maribunta, scolixæ, bees, dirt daubers or masons, make their nests in the walls of buildings or suspend them from the branches of trees. Caterpillars and butterflies form one of the most beautiful and interesting orders of the insect tribe. They are very numerous in the dry season, but may be found at all periods of the year and in every part of Guiana.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS.

Few countries on the surface of the globe can be compared with Guiana for vigour and luxuriance of vegetation. A constant summer prevails; the fertility of the soil, the humid climate, and congenial temperature, insure an immense and rapid growth of vegetation, and a continued succession of leaves, flowers, and fruits.

The low lands are thickly covered with mangrove and courida bushes; valuable timber trees raise their heads above the more ignoble products of the forests; lianas cling to their trunks, interlace their branches, spread from tree to tree, and, descending again to the earth, form a sort of network very difficult to penetrate.

In the cultivated districts, the most conspicuous objects are the cabbage palm and the cocoa-nut tree.

The principal fruit trees are the orange, lemon, lime, shaddock, forbidden fruit, citrons, mammees, star apple, Ducolla apple, Avigato pears; bread-fruit, bread-nut, soursop, Simiri or locust-tree, Sapodilla, Mangoe, Papaw, hog-plums, Avoira plum, Cashew, Cumaramara or marmalade-tree. The *Ita* palm supplies the drink called Belteerie;

of the fruit of the Tooroo palm a drink resembling chocolate is made; the Awara palm also yields a drink; the Guava, Souari, and tamarind.

The trees which furnish timber for building are, the Mora, Siperi or greenheart, black greenheart, purple greenheart or Mari Wayana, Simiri or locust-tree, Kakaralli, Wamara, Determa, Wallama (generally used for shingles, as it splits smoothly and freely), bully-tree or Burueh, Siruabilli, Cuamara or Tonkin bean, Cabacalli, Waracouri or white cedar, Carana or Acuyari or Mara or red cedar, Yari-yari or yellow lancewood is used for carriages, Carisiri or black lancewood, Yaruri or Massara or paddle-wood, Souari, Siruba, Anapaima, crab-wood, Tataba, Kaiceriballi, Kakaralli, Suradani, &c.

The woods used for furniture are, Bourra-courra or letter-wood, Hucoriya or iron-wood, and Banya or ebony, are also used by the Indians for war-clubs, Ducala-balli or Itikiribourra-balli or tiger-wood, Tooroo palm, Ducaballi or mahogany, Silbadani or Sibadani, Washiba or bow-wood, and Taccuba are used by the Indians for bows, Cartan or Cartan-yeh, Hyauaballi, &c.

More than one hundred specimens of these various useful and beautiful woods of the Guiana forests were sent to the Exhibition of Paris in 1855.

Plants yielding edible products are, the sugar cane, plantain, banana, coffee, maize or Indian corn, Guinea corn or millet, Cassava (sweet and bitter), arrowroot, rice, tannia, sweet potato, peppers, ochre, cacao, musk and water plant, melon, grenadilla and pine-apple.

The plants yielding starch are, cassava, sweet potato, yam, arrow-root, tannia, plantain, bread fruit, and mangoe.

The plants yielding dyes and colours are the indigo, arnatto or rocon, lana, logwood, and mahoe.

The trees and plants yielding oils, gums, and resins are, the cocoa-nut tree, castor oil tree, crab, laurel, monkey-pot, wangala, butter tree, pitch tree, tallow tree, Simiri or locust tree, Hyawa or incense tree, Hya-hya or milk tree or cow tree, Indian rubber tree, Woorali and Ooroobo yield powerful poisons, one species of arrow root plant yields a juice called galanga, which is used by the Indians as an antidote against the poison of their arrows and the bites of insects. Many of these trees, as the Plantain, and Cocoa-nut tree, yield a fibrous substance, used for making ropes, hammocks, &c. The cultivation of cotton and tobacco has almost ceased during the last twenty years.

Many plants found in Guiana contain valuable medicinal properties, such as sarsaparilla, ipecacuanha, simaruba, quassia, and several powerful febrifugals; and many more of equal importance will doubtless be discovered by the scientific.

The flowers of this country are remarkable for their size, colour, and beauty; some among them are rich in perfume—others again are scentless. We cannot enumerate all the various choice and blooming treasures of this fertile soil; the wonderful water-lily discovered by Schomburgk in 1837 on the river Berbice, and by him named *Victoria Regia* is now well known, and whether we notice the large white sweet scented convolvulus, rightly named “the lady of the night;” the variety of lily, and bell shaped flowers, or the smaller bright coloured sweet William, all are alike lovely and fragile.

MINERAL KINGDOM.

Guiana is not rich in mineral wealth. No mines of gold or silver have yet been discovered, though it is thought some may exist in the interior, but the Indians are said to have brought specimens of native silver from the river Branco. Iron has been found in small quantities, but lead and copper are wanting. Sands fit for the manufacture of glass, and stone for building are abundant, but the latter must be quarried far from the settled coasts. Excellent clay for brick making and pottery also abound.

DISCOVERY.

COLUMBUS.—As many years ago as there are days in the year, three vessels, fitted out by Isabella, Queen of Castille, left Palos, a small port of Andalusia, under the command of Christopher Columbus, and sailed westward, over the bosom of the broad and then unexplored Atlantic, on the most important expedition ever planned by the ingenuity, or executed by the courage of man. It gave to the inhabitants of the old world, the knowledge of a new; opening to European adventurers an extensive field of enterprise; and to the persevering an inexhaustible mine of wealth. The precise time when the shores of Guiana were first visited by Europeans, cannot be fixed with certainty, there *is no doubt they were known at a very early period, indeed*

we have good reasons for believing that they were discovered by Columbus in his third voyage, A.D. 1498. Other adventurers soon followed, amongst whom were Vincent Janez Pinzon, who visited the mouth of the Amazon in 1499, and Vasco Nunez, who landed on several parts of the coast in 1504.

Wonderful stories were soon circulated in Europe about a rich city, abounding in gold, silver, and precious stones, whose streets were of gold, and its houses covered with plates of gold; and not only were all the vessels in the palace of the Emperor of gold and of silver, but gold dust was so plentiful that the natives sprinkled it all over their bodies, which they first anointed with a glutinous substance that it might adhere to them. This city, was situated on an island, whose rocks and soil were

“Of gold, fine virgin glittering gold,”

in the bosom of a silver lake called Parime. Hence by the Spaniards the city was called El Dorado, or the Golden; but the natives called it Manoa, which signifies “it spreads not;” and this name the Caribs frequently give to their lakes, so that Ciudad de Manoa, in the Spanish histories, literally means the City of the Lake, and has nothing whatever to do with gold or silver. The learned strove to identify this imaginary city with the Ophir of sacred writ, whence Solomon drew his immense treasure, and Columbus declared it to be Cibao of Hayti. When this island had been explored, and its mineral treasures nearly exhausted, the Golden City began to be sought for in other regions, especially in New Granada and Peru, and lastly was supposed to exist in the dense forests of Central Guiana; and for more than a hundred years the history of this country, consists almost solely of the adventures of men who lost both fortunes and lives in the vain pursuit of a golden dream.

The following is an epitome of the most celebrated histories of these unfortunate explorers:—

In A.D. 1530, Don Diego de Ordaz sent Diego de Ordaz to explore Guiana, and afterwards obtained letters-patent from the Emperor Charles the Fifth, securing to him all the lands he might discover from the Cape de la Vela. He set out with a large force, and took several Indians prisoners, who showed him some stones resembling emeralds.

In 1531 he sailed up the Amazon, and subsequently to Paria, on the Orinoco, where he took possession of a fort.

erected by Don Palameque, Governor of the Guianas. He then proceeded up the river as far as the confluence of the Meta, a distance of 300 miles. On his return he founded the city of St. Thomas of Guiana, at the confluence of the Caroni and Orinoco, about 45 miles from the mouth of the latter.

Juan Martinez, commander of artillery, under Ordaz, was condemned to death for neglect of duty; but his men, wishing to save his life, set him afloat in a canoe. According to his own account he was taken prisoner by the Indians, and carried to Manoa, where the Inca recognised him as a Spaniard, and detained him in his capital for seven months. Martinez was then loaded with abundance of gold and presents, and permitted to return to his own country. The people, who dwelt on the Orinoco, robbed him of all his wealth, except two bottles of gold dust, which they imagined was the ordinary drink of the white man. He wrote a description of the wonders he had seen.

Silva and his two brothers, with 200 men, examined the whole length of the Amazon in vain.

In 1536, Antonio Sidenno set out with 500 chosen men to discover the El Dorado; he obtained much gold, and took some Indian prisoners; but died, and was buried near the head of the river Tinados, and most of his people perished.

In 1540, Gonzalvo Pizarro, brother of Francesco Pizarro, conqueror of Peru, set out from Quito with 800 men, one half of whom were Spaniards, and the other half Indians; and travelled as far as the river Napo, a tributary of the Amazon. Here he contrived to build a bark, which was placed under the command of one of his officers, named Francesco Orellana, who deserting with his men and the vessel, found his way down the river Amazon, which he called after himself the Orellana, into the Atlantic, and thence to Spain. Pizarro on arriving at the mouth of the Napo, having discovered the desertion of Orellana, from an officer whom the latter had left to perish in the forest, was compelled to retrace his steps. He returned to Quito in 1542, with only 80 men, and these in a most deplorable condition.

Pedro de Odua, of Navarre, set out from Peru with 400 men, but was murdered by one of his sergeants, a Biscayan, named Agiri, who then took the command, with the intention of making himself Emperor of the Guianas. He *was slain in the kingdom of Nuevo Regno.*

Juan Corteso penetrated into the country from the Amazon with thirty followers, but neither he or any of his men ever returned to tell the tale of their adventures.

Juan Gonzalves, who set out from Trinidad, describes the Guianas as populous, plentiful in provisions, and rich in minerals, especially gold.

Pedro de Sylva, a Portuguese, who was sent out by the King of Spain, to explore the country, landed in the territory of the Amazons, where he was attacked by the natives, and only two of his men returned to their own country.

In 1560, a monk called Father Sala, with one missionary companion, entered Guiana under the guidance of the Indians; after having made a collection of eagles, idols, and a few plates and figures of pure gold, he returned without having attained the object of his mission. In a second attempt to discover El Dorado he was killed.

Pedro Limpias was resolutely opposed by the Caribs, and at last slain by the Cacique Putima.

In 1582, Don Antonio Berrejo, Governor of Trinidad, set out from New Granada. He failed, and invented marvellous falsehoods to cover his disgrace; which induced a party of his friends to proceed into the country with the intention of forming a treaty with Mozequito, an Indian chief, said to be well acquainted with the interior, who put them all to death; but was himself soon afterwards taken prisoner by the Spaniards, and executed, and his uncle, Tapiawari, was compelled to pay a ransom of one hundred plates of gold.

In 1593, Domingo de Vera, a Lieutenant of Antonio Berrejo, formally took possession of the mighty kingdom of Guiana and El Dorado, in the name of his sovereign Philip II.

The French and Portuguese also made many vain attempts to discover the capital of Guiana; and the English, chiefly through enmity to the Spaniards, engaged in the same undertaking.

Sir Walter Raleigh, during his disgrace in 1593, projected the discovery and conquest of the rich and beautiful empire of Guiana, and made two arduous attempts to penetrate into the interior. The first was in 1595: after having burnt St. Joseph, the capital of Trinidad, and captured its governor, Antonio Berrejo, he sailed to Guiana, and travelled within four days' journey of the boundary of El Dorado, when his provisions and ammunition being exhausted, he was compelled to return to his ships. He

took possession of the country in the name of Elizabeth, and brought away two golden images, and a small quantity of the ore called by the Spaniards, "el Madre de Oro." He left Francis Sparrow and a boy named Godwin, with Tapiawari, to whom he gave instructions to explore the country. Godwin was devoured by a tiger, and Sparrow, after being taken by the Spaniards, and sent a prisoner to Spain, returned to England in 1602.

In 1596, Captain Keymis explored the coasts from the Orinoco to the Amazon, and in the following year another expedition was sent to Guiana under Captain Masham.

In 1617, Raleigh obtained a patent under the great seal, for making a settlement in the country, and sailed once more to the Orinoco. He attacked and sacked St. Thomas with the loss of his eldest son, Captain Raleigh, and many of his men; but the plunder proved of little value, and he failed to discover the gold mines which were supposed to exist in its neighbourhood.

The last attempts to discover the city of Manoa were made in the eighteenth century, (in 1740) by a Dutch surgeon, who ascended the Essequibo, a distance of 360 miles; thence he crossed the country, being sometimes compelled to carry his canoe, till he fell in with the Rio Blanco, by which he descended to the Rio Negro, and thence to the Amazons, where he fixed his residence among the Portuguese settlers.

In 1766, Don Manuel Centurion, governor of Santo Thomé, sent an expedition from the Orinoco to search for the lake Parima and the city Manhoa: only one man returned.

These are a few of the many expeditions sent out to discover the golden treasures of Manhoa; the Spaniards alone are said to have sent above sixty. A century elapsed from the discovery of this country, before any attempts were made by Europeans to colonize and cultivate the rich soil. The phantom of El Dorado no longer allures men to ruin, and exists only in the history of the past. Two places are pointed out as having probably given birth to the fiction:—the first is on the Upper Orinoco, where the glittering rock crystals formed in the mountains of Duida and Maravacca, were mistaken for diamonds and emeralds, and caused the name of Nueva Villa de Esmeraldas, *i.e.* the City of Emeralds, to be given to a miserable hamlet of fifteen huts: the second is the district between the *Rupununi* and the Rio Blanco, in which is the Lake Amucu.

ABORIGINES.

The American Continent was first peopled by tribes closely allied to the Mongolian race of Northern Asia; who being driven from the milder regions of the south crossed Behring's Straits, and established themselves in the New World. Other tribes followed in the track of the first emigrants, wars ensued, and the first settlers were again compelled to seek new lands, while the conquerors took possession of their territory to await a similar fate from succeeding hordes. Thus the whole land from Alaska to Cape Horn, became inhabited by a vast number of tribes, resembling each other in manners, habits, occupations, and personal appearances, and yet speaking a great variety of languages, among which, however, there exists a grammatical analogy, and a similarity in their general structure, proving a common origin, and indisputable affinity with oriental dialects.

Writers of the sixteenth century describe Guiana as a great and mighty empire, densely populated, and ruled by a grand Patiti, who dwelt at Manoa. When, and what tribes first settled here we know not, nor have we any means of estimating their numbers; the searchers for El Dorado attacked their haunts, burnt their huts, and slaughtered, or made prisoners of the inmates. The first planters seized many of their persons, and compelled them to work on their estates; others to avoid a life of slavery wandered from their homes, became strangers in strange lands, where they suffered from famine, disease, and war. The white man introduced the vices of civilized life without its virtues, fomented feuds between peaceful tribes and so prepared the way for the extermination of the ancient and lawful owners of the soil.

The once numerous and most powerful tribes, who fought for the land of their fathers, are now few and weak, and many have become extinct;—thus the whole race seems to be wasting away to make room for the universal dominion of the northmen.

The following is a list of the principal tribes of Indians now inhabiting these regions:—

The Macusis who formerly dwelt on the banks of the Orinoco, and are called by Sir Walter Raleigh the *Orinoque-poni*, inhabit the Savannahs of the *Rupununi*

and the mountain chains Pacaraimi and Cannucu. Their principal village is Pirara, consisting of 14 huts with a population of 80 persons. It is situated upon a rising ground on the southern shore of the lake Amucu. Being industrious and unwarlike, they have suffered much from the attacks of fiercer tribes; and the Brazilians have long been in the habit of enslaving them. They are remarkable for the manufacture of the deadly poison called Wourali. This is the largest tribe now existing in Guiana—and numbers above 3000 souls.

The Warraus dwell on the low and swampy shores and islands near the mouth of the Orinoco. They are a short, hardy race of fishermen, bold, adventurous and active, and are famed for the manufacture of corials and canoes of great size and strength. Their language is the simplest and most easily acquired of all the Indian dialects.

The Caribis were originally settled in the valleys of the Apalachian mountains, in North America, whence they migrated to Florida; afterwards abandoning the northern continent, they passed from island to island, till at last they were discovered by Columbus in the Antilles or Caribee islands; here being attacked by the Spaniards many of them sought new settlements on the shores of Guiana. They inhabit the lower Mazaruni and Cuyuni; a few are found at the Corentyn, Rupununi, and the Guidaru rivers. Their colonies formerly extended to the Surinam, the Maroni, and the country watered by the windings of the Cayenne. Their numbers are now reduced to about 300, and they appear fast approaching their extinction.

The Wacawoios, are closely allied to the Caribs; they are probably an advanced horde of the same tribe who passed at an earlier period through the islands and finally attacked and overran the tribes of Guiana. They are of a warlike nature, of nomadic and unsettled habits, and wandering from the Orinoco to the Amazon, are a source of continual apprehension to their more peaceful neighbours. They may generally be found on the upper Demerara, the Mazaruni, and the Potara. Their numbers are estimated at 600.

The Arawaks, when first discovered occupied the country about the mouths of the rivers and coasts of the Atlantic; they also inhabited Tobago, and some other West India islands. Frequent contests took place between *this tribe and the Caribis*. The Europeans seized their

lands in the immediate vicinity of the coast, but their most dreaded enemies were the Bush negroes, whom they often captured and carried back to their masters. They are said to be more intelligent, and to possess a stronger national feeling than other tribes. Their number is estimated at 3000.

The Arecunas resemble the Macusis in language; they formerly inhabited the banks of the river Uaupes, but are now found on the high table land containing the sources of the rivers Caroni and Cuyuni. Their principal village is Uruparu.

The Zapares, sprung from the intermarriages of the Macusis and Arecunas, inhabit the banks of the Barima, and the mountains Tupar bug and Warkamani. Their number is about 300. They are a predatory tribe, and accused of being night murderers and poisoners.

The Soerikongs have arisen from the intercourse of the Arecunas and Wacaworos.

The Wapisianas dwell on the Savannahs of the Upper Rupununi. They amount to 800 persons.

The Woyawais dwell among the mountains near the source of the Essequibo. They are great hunters, and famed for their dogs. They number about 350.

The Atorais and Tauris, now become one tribe; inhabit the territory near the Carawaini mountains. Their whole number is not above 300.

The Tarumas, formerly inhabiting the banks of the Rio Negro, have migrated to the tributaries of the Upper Essequibo. They number about 500.

The Oyampus, a warlike and nomadic people, inhabit the banks of the Upper Oyapock and Jari.

The Guinaus and Maiongkings, inhabit the mountainous regions near the Upper Orinoco. They manufacture the gravatana or Indian blow pipe, which they exchange with the Macusis for Wourali poison.

The Tupis, dwell on the banks of the Amazon. They speak the *Lingua Geral*, the general language of the Indians of Brazil, to whom they belong.

Besides the foregoing, about eighty tribes are enumerated by Dalton; they are generally few in numbers and of little importance. The total aboriginal population of British Guiana has been estimated at about 7,000 by some, while others have computed them at from 15,000 to 20,000.

The Indian is of little stature, few exceed five feet

four inches in height, and the greater number are much shorter; the trunk is long, the limbs short, and the head very large, and sometimes almost hidden by the shoulders, which induced Raleigh to say he had discovered a race without heads whose mouths were in their breasts; his colour is a reddish-brown, somewhat resembling copper; his hair is straight and coarse, its colour generally black; his features are regular, the eyes obliquely placed in their orbits, the nose broad, and the general expression of the countenance is listless and roving.

In his native forest the savage is almost naked, his only covering being a small strip of cotton bound around his loins; the women wear a small apron, called a *Queu*, made of shells or beads; their ornaments are coronets made of the bright and gaudy plumage of birds, and necklaces composed of shells and the teeth of animals killed in the woods. Some tribes paint their bodies, and others tattoo their faces.

Four points are considered by the Indian in selecting a site for his habitation; it must be near the banks of a river, the soil must be light and sandy, the neighbourhood must abound in game, and the spot must be secluded. Their dwellings are very rude, consisting merely of upright posts with a covering of palm leaves, many of them being open at the sides; the shape, which distinguishes the tribe, is sometimes round, sometimes oblong. It contains two apartments, one for the men, the other for the women and children. The furniture consists of a few low seats formed of blocks of wood, buck pots, and hammocks slung from the beams. Several families of the same tribe often build their huts near each other, forming a village, over which a Chieftain presides. This ruler is called *Yuputorikung* by the Caribs, and by the *Macusis*, *Toyeputori*. The office is hereditary; and the right of inheritance descends through the mothers. In the midst of the village a house called *Tapoi* is set apart for the accommodation of strangers.

Each tribe has its own hunting ground, and each family its own plantation, in which, after it has been cleared by the men, cassava, tania, yams, batatas, and corn are cultivated by the women. Their food consists of the flesh of animals caught in the forests, birds, and fish: their favourite drink is *paiwori*. Their arms are bows and arrows, the *blow pipe*, and clubs.

No religious ceremonies accompany their marriages;

sometimes they are contracted by the parents during infancy, in other cases the parties consult their own inclinations. They have generally but one wife, though polygamy is allowable. On the birth of a child the father betakes himself to his hammock where he receives the congratulations of his friends; the infant is named by the Piatsang Paché, Piai-man, or conjurer. Their funeral ceremonies differ according to the tribe to which the deceased belonged. The Warraus bury the body surrounded with all the dead possessed in a canoe: the Caribs keep them in a hammock till the flesh becomes putrid; they then cleanse and paint the bones, which are carefully preserved: the Arawaks, on the death of a great man, plant a field with cassava; after a period of twelve moons the relations and friends of the departed meet together, dance over his grave, and drink paiwori to his memory.

The Indian believes in the existence of a good spirit, the Creator and Preserver of the world, whom they call Tamousi, and Makunaima, *i. e.* The Universal Father: by the Arawaks he is named Uacinaci (our Father), and Aiornun Kondi (the Dweller on high). They also acknowledge the existence of numerous evil spirits who have power to afflict the human race with misfortunes, disease, and death. The most malignant are called Yauhahu. To counteract the influence of these spirits they apply to one of their priests, called by the colonists Piarinsu; by the Arawaks Semicici, who, furnished with a marakka or rattle, formed of a calabash painted red, having a handle ornamented with feathers, and white stones within it, performs his mystic ceremonies. Should the patient recover, the sorcerer is greatly increased, should he die, the Yauhahu, or some other conjurer whose charms had excited his malignity, bears the blame. The Warraus call the evil spirit Hebo; the Caribs, Yourika.

The Orehu, is a female inhabiting the waters; her favourite place of abode is on the banks of the Pomeroon, where she indulges her caprices on the unfortunates who disturb her seclusion. She sometimes exerts herself in favour of man against the Yauhahu. In very ancient times she appeared to an Arawak, named Arawanili, gave him a small branch, which he planted, and thus obtained the calabash; she also instructed him in the mysteries of sereuci.

INDIAN MISSIONS.

The settlers on the coasts of America seem to have made few attempts to introduce Christianity among the Aborigines till near the middle of the eighteenth century. Their object in undergoing the hardships to which the first colonists are inevitably exposed was to get wealth; their hearts were ever craving for gold:

Stolen and borrow'd from young or old,
The price of many a crime untold;

and to obtain this they scrupled not to commit the most glaring atrocities. The wild denizens of the forest, the nurslings of the woods, who had sucked freedom from the breasts of their mothers, and inherited a manly spirit of independence from their fathers, were hunted like beasts and compelled to work in chains, and the Brazilians to this day pursue the same line of conduct. Whole districts once the scene of a thriving race have been abandoned, and tribes who numbered their warriors by thousands have become extinct.

In the seventeenth century missions were established among the Chaymas who dwell to the north of the Orinoco, and in 1748 the Spanish Padres had reared the cross at Esmeralda, at Maypures, and at Atures, on the Upper Orinoco; no less than twenty-six ecclesiastics were stationed in these regions in 1800. The first missions under the Dutch were commenced by the Bishop of Spangenberg, who sent out three members of the Society of United Brethren in 1738. They established the mission of Pilgerhut on the Berbice. In 1739, another mission consisting of five persons established themselves in the Cottaka river; this was soon abandoned and the brethren joined their comrades at Pilgerhut. This station was finally deserted through fear of the negroes during the insurrection of 1763.

In the spring of 1757, two other missions were founded, one at Ephraim on the Corentyn, the other at Sharon on the Saramaca; the former being disturbed by the negroes in 1763 was removed to a place higher up the river, which they called Hope. Things prospered for *some years*, and in 1765, a mission to the Bush negroes *was undertaken*, but at the commencement of the nine-

teenth century, a great change took place; the buildings at Hope were all burned down in 1806, and in 1817 the establishments on the Corentyn were given up.

The English missions were commenced at Bartica Grove in 1829, by Mr. Armstrong. In 1840, two missionaries, one in holy orders and one a layman, were appointed by the Society for the propagation of the Gospel to proceed to the Pomeroon, but only the latter (Mr. now the Rev. W. H. Brett,) arrived in the country, and established himself at the junction of that river with the Arapiaco. Mr. Youd, who had been expelled by the Brazilians from Pirara, whither he had gone in 1838, founded the mission of Waraputa on the Essequibo, and the Rev. W. Austin at Ituribisi. In the year 1844, two new missions were undertaken, one at Waramuri on the river Moruca by Mr. Nowers; the other at the Mahaicony was placed under Mr. Berry, but in the following year the Rev. J. F. Bourne was made superintendent.

These are the principal efforts which have been made for the conversion and civilization of the Indians; and that God would vouchsafe to bless the labours of those who have devoted their lives to the advancement of his glory and the good of man, must be the devout prayer of every Christian heart. There are two causes which have greatly impeded the spread of the gospel among them. The first is their wandering habits; for, although certain localities are generally assigned to each of the larger tribes, yet it is very difficult to tell where their main-body may be at any given time, and the pastor may often travel for days in search of his flock. The second cause is the great diversity of language spoken by these denizens of the forest. Few of the missionaries understand a single sentence of any native tongue; and even the Arawak, the softest and most harmonious of all the Indian dialects, has hitherto been so imperfectly studied that no one who has compared two translations of the Lord's Prayer into that language, would suppose that they were both intended to give expression to the same thoughts.

The Indians are the only class of persons in this country who show any skill in the arts of manufacture. They make their canoes of the trunks and bark of trees; the latter are called *adada* or woodskins; bows, arrows, fishing rods, and blow pipes sometimes highly ornamented, and the war clubs are formed of the woods found in the forest. the *raha* or shield, and the Macquari whips are made of

silk, grass, and the fibre of the Ita palm; their hammocks, made of wild cotton and the fibres of various kinds of plants, are far superior to those made in England. Fantastic and picturesque head-dresses of cotton and feathers, necklaces of seeds or the teeth of animals, and ornamented queus are the work of the females; a kind of cap worn by the men is made of the flower of the troolie palm; earthen vessels, called buck-pots, water goglets, and bowls are also made by the Caribi women; there are many other curious articles for ornament or use found among these people.

I will conclude this brief account of the Aborigines of Guiana, with the following extract from the travels of Humboldt. "The term wild or savage," he says, "he uses with regret, because it implies a difference of cultivation which does not always exist between the reduced or civilized Indian living in the missions, and the free or independent Indian. In the forests of South America there are tribes which dwell in villages, rear plantains, cassava, and cotton, and are scarcely more barbarous than those in the religious establishments, who have been taught to make the sign of the cross. It is an error to consider all the free natives as wandering hunters; for agriculture existed on the continent long before the arrival of the Europeans, and still exists between the Orinoco and the Amazon, in districts to which they have never penetrated. The system of the missions has produced an attachment to landed property, a fixed residence, and a taste for quiet life; but the baptised Indian is often as little a Christian as his heathen brother is an idolater, both discovering a marked indifference for religious opinions, and a tendency to worship nature."

BRITISH GUIANA,

Lies between 1° and 8° 40' N. lat., and 56° 58' and 60° 6' W. long. The Atlantic ocean forms its N.E. boundary from Punta Barima near the mouth of the Orinoco, to the river Corentyn, which separates it from Surinam, and forms its eastern boundary. The Venezuelan and Brazilian territories form its western and southern boundaries, but the *lines of demarcation* are not satisfactorily defined. If the

claims of the Governments of these two provinces be allowed, its area would be but 12,000 square miles, but the British territories are generally said to occupy nearly 100,000 square miles, having a sea façade of 250 miles, with an inland depth of from 300 to 450. About 12,000 square miles, consisting of a narrow slip along the coast and the banks of the rivers, are under cultivation. This country now includes the three former colonies of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice. The first and second were united in 1785—and the third was added to them in 1831. In 1838 it was divided into three counties, leaving the same names and boundaries as the former colonies; and these counties were sub-divided into 17 parishes—11 in Demerara and Essequibo, and 6 in Berbice.

Essequibo county extends from Boerasire Creek, to the western limits of the colony. It has no town, but contains several villages, the chief of which are Queenstown, Fredericksburg, Williamstown, Catherinesburg, and the penal settlement on the Mazaroony. Its population is about 35,000.

Demerara county extends from Boerasire Creek to Abari Creek. It contains the city of Georgetown, which is the capital of the colony, and seat of government, and has a population of nearly 26,000; the principal villages are the Lodge Plaisance, Beterverwagting, Friendship, Buxton, Victoria, Mahaica, and Mahaicony. Its population is about 105,000.

Berbice county extends from Abari Creek to the river Corentyn. Its principal town is New Amsterdam,—situated on the river Berbice. Its chief villages are Liverpool, Manchester, Gibraltar, Fyrish, Epsom, Sisters, Ropetown, No. 12, Rosignol, Firebrace, Ithacar, Cumberland, Light-Town. Its population is about 28,000.

The Indians generally found in the British territory are supposed to amount to about 7000. The whole population of the colony is therefore 175,000.

EXPORTS.—The staple products of British Guiana were formerly described as sugar, rum, coffee, and cotton. In the year 1803, the counties of Demerara and Essequibo shipped 46,435 bales of cotton, each having an average weight of 300 lbs.; since the year 1820 the cultivation gradually diminished and now has entirely ceased. In 1830, more than 9,000,000 lbs. of coffee were exported, but now the produce is scarcely sufficient to supply the demand of the colony. Molasses and timber are now ex-

ported in considerable quantities; the timber trade especially will probably henceforth form an important part of the commerce of this country.

The imports consist of provisions chiefly from England and the United States, and manufactured goods of all kinds.

ESSEQUEBO.

A.D. 1580 to 1742.

The first European settlements within the limits of the territory which now bears the name of British Guiana, were made by the Dutch. About the year 1580, certain merchants of the province of Zealand fitted out ships to carry on the rude system of trade by barter then practised along the coasts of South America. Some of the persons engaged in this expedition formed a sort of encampment on the banks of the river Pomeroon, which they called Nieuw Zealand. Another party settled on the Essequibo; and a third at the Indian village Nibie, situated on the river Abari. In 1596, the Spaniards attacked the Dutch on the Essequibo, and the colonists, retiring farther inland under the command of Joost Van der Hoog, established themselves on a small island situated at the confluence of the rivers Cayuni, and Mazaruni, which they call Kykoveral. Here they found an old fort built of hewn stones, with the arms of the Portuguese nation carved over the gateway, when, or by whom erected is unknown.

In 1599, Adrian Hendricks, an influential inhabitant and burgomaster of Middleburg, sent two ships to the same coast; and in 1602, a company of Zealand merchants sent thither another expedition, under the command of Ryk Henderzoon. About twelve years later the Home Government granted the monopoly of free trade to certain persons who should undertake to explore and navigate the several rivers, creeks, and havens of this country.

In 1621, the first Dutch West India Company was formed, with exclusive control of all the settlements of their nation on the wild coast, (the name given to Guiana by the Hollanders), and also the trade thither. About this time the government undertook to aid the efforts of *the colonists by supplying them with negro slaves from*

Africa. The principal productions of the plantations at this period consisted of sugar, the cane had been introduced about the year 1600, cotton, pimento, tobacco, pepper and dyestuffs. Notwithstanding the richness of the soil, the first Dutch General West Indian Company thought the colony of Essequibo of so little importance that they relinquished their claims, and the government was entrusted to a committee of eight persons, viz., two from Middleburg, one from Vlissingen, one from Veere, and four from the chamber of Zeeland. Under their auspices the two posts of the Pomeroon and Moraca were settled anew, and the villages of New Zealand and New Middleburg erected on the banks of those rivers. This was in the year 1657.

In 1665, the English attacked the settlers, and in the following year the French destroyed the villages on the Pomeroon. The government of the colony was soon after given over to the West India Company of Zeeland. This company appointed Crynsse commander of Essequibo in 1667, who, going out of office in 1670, was succeeded by Hendrick Roll.

In 1674, the first General West India Company was dissolved and a new one incorporated; Roll was confirmed in his office; and from this period we have a regular succession of commanders, generally appointed by the company. The Chamber of Zeeland retained the exclusive right of trading to these shores till the year 1770, when it was partially opened to other companies.

During the next hundred years few events occurred worthy of notice. New plantations were laid out—old ones extended; the demand for labour increased, and consequently great numbers of Africans were introduced. The capital was established on Fort Island, about fifteen miles from the mouth of the River Essequibo.

The following is a list of the commanders during this period, with the date of the appointment of each:—

- 1676 Jacob Hars;
- 1678 Abraham Beckman;
- 1680 De Jong.
- 1690 Samuel Beckman.
- 1707 Peter Van der Heysen Resen.
- 1719 Laurens de Heere.
- 1729 Herman Gelskerke.
- 1742 Laurens Storm Van S. Gravesande.

DEMERARA.

The Dutch planters soon discovered the superior fertility of the low coast lands to those first settled; and gradually, as the fear of sea robbers subsided, began to form settlements nearer the sea. About the year 1740, their settlements were extended to the River Demerara; and in 1745, one Andrew Pieters obtained permission to lay out plantations on the banks of that river, which increased so rapidly as to form a separate colony in 1773, having its court of policy and courts of civil and criminal justice established at Borselen, an island about fifteen miles from the river's mouth. This spot was found to be very inconvenient for the inhabitants, so that in the next year the courts were removed to Stabrock, which rapidly grew into the largest and most important town in the colony, and has since become, under the English, who call it Georgetown, the capital of the British territory. Storm Gravesande, commander of Essequibo in 1751, assumed the title of Director General of the two rivers, which title was also taken by his successors. After having ruled this important Dutch province for thirty years, Gravesande was succeeded by George Hendrick Trotz in 1772. The colonists now made many complaints of the small number and high price of the slaves brought to this colony.

In 1781, during the war between Great Britain and Holland, a detachment of Lord Rodney's fleet captured Demerara and Essequibo, but in the February of the following year were compelled to submit to the French, under the Count de Kersaint; they were restored to Holland at the Peace of Paris in 1783.

In 1784, the West India Company published certain regulations for the management of slaves, by which the masters were forbidden to compel them to work on Sundays, or to punish them with more than twenty-five lashes, but these rules were generally disregarded.

During the governorship of A. Backer in 1789, Essequibo and Demerara were politically united; their capital was Stabrock.

In 1795, after many disputes between the colonists and the government, a "Plan of Redress" was drawn up, by which a Court of Policy, to consist of the governor, the

fiscal of Demerara, the fiscal of Essequibo, and two colonists from each of these settlements, was constituted. The colonists were to be nominated by the College of Kiezers. This plan became the basis of the future constitution.

In 1796, the colonies Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice again fell into the hands of the English, who appointed Anthony Beaujon governor. In this year the yellow fever broke out among the troops, and the officers removed from the barracks at Eve Leary and formed encampments near the river, between the barracks and the town of Stabroek. Such was the origin of Kingston. Demerara was restored to Holland at the Peace of Amiens in 1802, and Anthony Meertens became its governor. But war soon broke out again between Great Britain and the Batavian Republic; and in 1803, the Dutch colonies of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice, surrendered to General Greenfield, and have ever since remained in the hands of the English. The principal articles of capitulation were—That the laws and customs of the colony should remain in force; that the inhabitants should be protected in their persons and property; that they should not be compelled to take arms, except in the defence of the colony; that civil officers should retain their situations; and that government debts should be paid.

On the death of Beaujon, in 1805, Brigadier-General James Montgomery became acting governor, but was superseded in the following year by H. W. Bentinck. The nineteen years intervening from 1805 to 1824 are noted for the frequent changes which took place among the governors. There were no less than seventeen, many of them holding their office not more than six months.

The year 1808 was the era of a great religious movement. With the exception of the Moravian Missions, commenced in 1738 and abandoned about the end of the eighteenth century, nothing had hitherto been done to provide for the Negro or Indian the means of religious or secular instruction. A Wesleyan missionary from Dominica had arrived in 1805, but was ordered by the governor, Anthony Beaujon, to quit the colony immediately. At this time there were but two churches in British Guiana; one Lutheran, at Berbice, richly endowed; the other reformed Dutch, on Fort Island. The garrison chaplain read the prayers of the Church of England in the old court house. The London Missionary Society sent out to Demerara their first teacher in this year, who established himself

at Plantation Le Resouvenir: though this step met with great opposition from the planters, other members of the same body soon arrived. St. George's Church was opened in 1810; and the Wesleyans began to labour in the same field in 1815.

In 1809, paper money was first issued in Demerara. The current coins (Dutch guilders and gold joes worth 22 guilders), which had been so clipped and plugged as to be greatly depreciated in value, were called in and paper given in exchange, to the value of 50,000 joes, which, at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ guilders to a dollar, are equal to 440,000 dollars. Subsequent issues in 1815 and 1816 increased these notes to the value of 660,000 dollars. The gold received was sent to London and formed a fund for the redemption of the notes. This fund was increased by an annual tax of £2000, continued till 1822.

In 1812, the courts of justice held at Fort Island were removed to Stabrock, and the name of the capital was changed to Georgetown. Major-General H. L. Carmichael, then governor, issued a proclamation on his own authority, combining the Board of Electors with that of the financial representatives, and extending the suffrage to all persons having an annual income of 10,000 guilders, or 25 slaves. Steam engines about this time began to be used on the estates.

In 1813, the first English judge, Jabez Henry, took his seat as president of the courts. Justice, however, seems to have been partially administered, which led to grievous complaints from the colonists, and Judge Rough, then president, was suspended by the governor in 1821.

Early in the nineteenth century great indignation was excited in the minds of the British parliament and people against the system of slavery carried on in America, which led to the abolition of the slave traffic in 1807; but slavery was continued in the West Indies with all its horrors unmitigated. In 1823, Mr. Buxton, in the House of Commons, moved the resolution, "That slavery is repugnant to the principles of the British constitution, and of the Christian religion," which was followed by Mr. Canning's amendment for ameliorating the condition of slaves, and preparing them for freedom. The resolution and its amendment were forwarded to the lieutenant-governor, Major-General Murray, but no official communication was made to the slaves on this subject. The Negroes soon *learnt what had occurred in England*, and being persuaded

that orders for their freedom had come out, but were kept back by some designing persons, conspired together, and a general rising took place on the east coast on Monday, August 18th. The whites who fell into the hands of the insurgents were put in the stocks, and some few, who offered a vigorous resistance, were killed. Next day martial law was proclaimed. The militia encountered a large body of blacks on a plantation called Bathelor's Adventure, where the insurgents were easily dispersed. A court-martial was held in Georgetown on the 25th of August for the trial of the prisoners : twenty were executed, several hung in chains, and seventeen sentenced to receive from 200 to 1000 lashes. The loss of property was very great, and the insurrection was estimated to have cost the public more than 200,000 dollars.

One of the London missionaries, Mr. Smith, who had arrived in the colony in 1817, was accused of having promoted discontent and dissatisfaction in the minds of the negroes against their lawful masters, of furthering and assisting the rebellion, and of withholding his knowledge of the intended rising from the proper authorities. He was found guilty and condemned to be hanged, but died in prison before the sentence was carried into execution. In England these proceedings were condemned in the strongest terms, and Earl Bathurst, the Colonial Secretary, ordered that the prisoner should be sent to England. These orders did not reach Demerara till three days after the death of Mr. Smith. In Demerara the feeling against the missionaries was so strong that all were compelled to leave the colony.

In 1824, Governor Murray was recalled, and Major-General Sir Benjamin D'Urban succeeded him. An order in council commanded religious instruction to be given to the slaves; that they should not be compelled to work on Sundays; that they should not be punished with more than twenty-five lashes; abolished the whipping of women; and appointed a protector of slaves. Demerara and Essequibo were divided into parishes in 1826, and the whole colony appended to the diocese of Barbadoes. In 1830, it was ordered that slaves should be allowed to bear witness in courts of justice : this was opposed by the court, on the ground of being contrary to the terms of capitulation; but in the next year the court itself was remodelled by order of Lord Goderich.

“ On the 21st of July, 1831, the colonies of Demerara,

Essequibo, and Berbice, were united into one, under the name of British Guiana; and Major-General Sir Benjamin D'Urban was the first governor of these united provinces."

The government, as formerly, is vested in a governor and a Court of Policy, consisting of ten members (five official), the governor, chief justice, attorney general, administrator general, and government secretary; and five non-official, elected by the College of Keizers. This college consists of seven members chosen for life by colonists paying direct taxes to the amount of 22.32 dollars per annum, or paying taxes of any sort on an annual income of 672 dollars. The Queen in council has power to enact any law to disallow any ordinance passed by the court.

The Chamber of Financial Representatives consists of six gentlemen, chosen for two years, by the same electors as the College of Keizers. It meets annually with the Court of Policy, forming the combined court, to discuss the estimates of expenditure and the levy of taxes.

The principal events since the union are the abolition of slavery, and the substitution of the apprenticeship system in 1834; their complete emancipation in 1838; and the introduction of Portuguese and Coolie labourers.

In 1819, St. Andrew's Church was opened for members of the Presbyterian persuasion; the Roman Catholic Church was built in 1825. In 1838, an archdeaconry was constituted, and four years later the colony was erected into a bishopric. Since that period the number of churches, chapels, and schools has continually increased. Bishop's College for preparing students for ordination and training schoolmasters, and Queen's College Grammar School have been founded in Georgetown; and almost every church, chapel, and mission station, has its school for instructing the children of the poor.

BERBICE.

FROM 1626 TO 1831.

In A.D. 1626, Jan Van Peere, a merchant of Flushing, sent vessels to the coasts of South America, they, attempting to form a settlement on the Orinoco, were expelled by the Spaniards, and proceeded to the River Berbice, on which they built Fort Nassau, about thirty miles from its mouth.

In the year 1657, this fort was unsuccessfully attacked by the English. This infant colony was included in the grant made by the Dutch government to the West India Company; but in 1678 an arrangement was made with the house of Van Peere, by which the first colonists were to retain their possessions in perpetual fief. This covenant was renewed in 1703.

The French now became the most dreaded enemies of the settlers on the wild coast. In 1690, they effected a landing, and levied a contribution of 20,000 florins, equal to 8000 dollars or £1666 13s. 4d. sterling. Again, in 1712, French privateers, under Cassard and Baron Monars, took possession of Berbice, and demanded 300,000 florins (120,000 dollars or £25,000) from the inhabitants and the proprietors. The company of Van Peere refused to pay the sum demanded by the French. The house of Van Horne advanced 108,000 florins, on which the enemy abandoned their conquests, three-fourths of which were given over to the company of Horne.

In 1720, the planters raised a fund of 3,200,000 florins for the purchase of African slaves. From this period the colony rapidly advanced in wealth and importance. The want of a station near the coast was soon felt, and a fort was erected near the junction of the Canje and Berbice. In 1732, the home government gave the colony a constitution—a governor, assisted by a council of six—with the power of making laws, &c.; and courts of criminal and civil justice were established. The first governor was Bernhard Waterham, who arrived at his post in the following year. He conducted the affairs of the colony for a period of sixteen years, and was succeeded, in 1749, by John Andries Lossner. In a few months Lossner was superseded by John Frederic Colier.

Hendrick Jan Van Ryswick followed in 1755. After five years he was succeeded by Wolfert Simon Van Hogenheim, under whose *regime* occurred one of the most disastrous events recorded in the history of these settlements. The negro slaves, in 1763, being exasperated by the oppressive cruelty of the planters, rose in rebellion; the planters took refuge in Fort Nassau, which, being thought untenable, was abandoned, and the fugitives then sought shelter in the shipping lying in the river. Assistance was procured from Surinam, Barbadoes, Curagoa, and St. Eustatius, but the rebels were not finally reduced till reinforcements arrived from Europe, eleven months after the first outbreak.

The loss of life and property was very great; many of the whites were slain, and hundreds of the negroes taken prisoners were burnt alive and broken upon the wheel. The whole colony was devastated, and its commerce received a severe check, from which it did not recover for many years. After the restoration of tranquillity, a return was made, which stated the population at 116 whites and 3370 slaves.

In 1764, Commander Hogenheim was succeeded by Johannes Heyliger; his successor was Stephen Hendrick de la Sabloniere, in 1768. Berbice surrendered to the French who also took possession of Essequibo and Demerara in 1781, and while in their hands was subject to the same governors as the sister colonies. After its restoration to the Dutch, Abraham Van Batenburg was appointed commander, he held his office till the Peace of Amiens, when the colony was governed for a short time by the Court of Policy. After the final surrender to the English in 1803, it was subject to the acting governor of Demerara, but Batenburg was reinstated in his office in 1804.

From this period the history of Berbice is very barren of interest: the most remarkable events being the frequent changes of its governors. The last was Sir Henry Beard, who was acting governor from 1821, to May 1825, and after an absence of fifteen months returned, and continued at the head of this colony till its union with Demerara in 1831.

DUTCH GUIANA, OR SURINAM,

Is intermediate in position and extent between British and French Guiana. It is bounded on the north by the Atlantic, on the south by the Sierra d'Acarai, on the west by the river Corentyn, separating it from Berbice, and on the east by the Maroni, separating it from Cayenne. It is in length 250 miles, its average breadth 155, and contains 38,500 square miles, with a population of 65,000, exclusive of Maroons and Indians. About 6000 are whites and free coloured people, the remainder are negro slaves. The Maroons are the descendants of run-away negroes, who, living on plunder and hiding in the bush by day, were a continual source of apprehension and dread to the planters

during the last century; now they are generally quiet, and form a sort of military frontier to the cultivated districts. They receive annually, presents of arms and ammunition from the Dutch government.

The government of the colony is vested in a governor, appointed by the King of Holland, and a high council. The capital and chief port is Parimaribo, situated on the river Surinam, about eighteen miles from its mouth; the fort Zeelandia, situated a little below the town, is the residence of the governor, and the seat of the government establishments.

The exports are sugar, coffee, cotton, rice, gums, balsams, and other drugs. The imports are provisions and manufactured goods from Holland, and provisions from the United States, in exchange for syrup and rum.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

In 1632, the English endeavoured to establish a settlement on the banks of the Comowini, or Little Coma, from which they were expelled by the Caribis. They then proceeded, under the command of Captain Marshall, to the Great Coma, now called the river Surinam, re-built the Indian village Parimaribo, which had been destroyed by its former possessors. Here they also suffered from the frequent attacks of the fierce Caribs, and the unhealthy climate, and were compelled to abandon the country. The French, who followed their steps, shared their fate.

In 1652, the English returned and regained their settlements with little opposition from the natives.

In 1662, the colony was granted by Charles the Second to Lord Willoughby, but soon after purchased by the Crown; and in 1667, exchanged with the Dutch for New Holland in North America.

In 1712, the colony was compelled to submit to the extortions of the French, under Admiral de Casse.

As the colonists became more liberated from the fear of the depredations of privateers and pirates, a new foe arose. The negroes, unable to endure the oppression of their Dutch masters, betook themselves to the woods and fastnesses of the interior. Issuing from their strongholds, these savages committed frightful ravages on the estates; they inspired such dread and alarm, that in 1749, the planters were compelled to acknowledge their independence by a formal

treaty. This was broken by both parties. The whites employed the Indians against the fugitives, and as a last resource, raised a corps of manumitted blacks, which combined with the red men, tracked the foes to their secluded haunts, and saved the colony.

At the Peace of Paris, in 1814, Surinam fell to the share of the Dutch, and has since remained in their hands.

FRENCH GUIANA, OR CAYENNE,

Is the most easterly and smallest of the three European colonies on the eastern coast of South America. Its boundaries are, on the east, the river Oyapok, separating it from Brazil; on the south, Brazil; on the west, the river Maroni; and on the north, the Atlantic. Its length is 250 miles, and its breadth varies from 100 to 190 miles; it contains 27,560 square miles, with a population of about 22,000.

The government is vested in a governor, assisted by a privy council of seven of the highest official functionaries, and the colonial council of sixteen members, chosen by the colonists of French descent. The electors must be twenty-five years of age if born in the colony; if Europeans, they must have resided in the colony two years before they can vote; and both classes must contribute direct taxes to the value of 200 francs per annum, or possess property of the value of 20,000 francs.

Politically the colony is divided into two districts, Cayenne and Sinnamary; and these are sub-divided into fourteen communes, comprising six electoral communes.

The chief towns are Cayenne, the capital, on the island of the same name; it is the residence of the governor, the chief port, and is strongly fortified. It was founded in 1640: its population is now about 6,000. Iracuba, to the west of Cayenne, and Oyapok, on the river of that name, are mere villages.

The exports are sugar, cotton, coffee, pepper, cloves, cinnamon, nutmegs, cocoa, and annatto. The imports, provisions and manufactured goods.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

In 1640, the French settlers being expelled from Parimá by the Indians, proceeded along the coast eastward,

and formed the first European settlement in Cayenne. Three years after, some merchants of Rouen formed a company for the support of the infant colony, and fitted out an expedition, which they placed under the command of Poncet de Bretigny. The commander and his men quarrelled, some of the emigrants were assassinated on the voyage out, and the scheme utterly failed.

In 1651, a new company was formed: from 700 to 800 emigrants were collected in Paris, and sent out to Cayenne; but misunderstandings again arose, the commander deserted to the Dutch, and finally the settlements were abandoned.

In 1663, a third company was formed: they expelled the Dutch, who had taken possession of the lands occupied by the former settlers, and soon succeeded in establishing themselves on the island and the adjoining coast.

In 1667, the colony was taken by the English, and in 1676 by the Dutch; but soon after, being reinforced by bands of French pirates, who had decided on giving up their roving life, they were able to drive out the invaders.

In 1688, further reinforcements arrived from France under the command of Du Casse. From this time the colonists were able to hold their possessions against foreign aggressors till the year 1809, when they were compelled to surrender to the combined English and Portuguese.

The settlement was restored to France by the Treaty of Paris, in 1814. The negro slaves, who in 1837 amounted to 16,600, were emancipated in 1848.

It is now used by the French government as a place of transportation for political offenders.

PORTUGUESE, OR BRAZILIAN GUIANA,

Is of much greater extent than either of the other four portions. It is bounded on the south, by the river Amazon; on the south-west, by the Rio Negro; on the north, by the Sierra Parimé, separating it from Venezuela; on the north-east, by the British, Dutch, and French possessions; and on the extreme east, by the Atlantic. Its length is 1260 miles; its breadth varies from 100 to 400 miles; and it contains 450,000 square miles. Its population is not known. The greater portion of this immense

territory consists of luxuriant forests, harbouring huge serpents, beasts and birds of prey; few plantations exist even on the banks of the rivers, and the interior has never been explored.

The largest town is Barra de Rio Negro, situated on that river, about eight miles from its junction with the Amazon; its population is about 7,000; its other towns, or rather villages, are San Carlos de Rio Negro; S. Isabel and S. Gabriel on the same river; S. Maria on the Rio Branco; Serpa, Obydos, Monte Alegre, and Villa Nova, on the Amazon; Degat on the Sierra d'Acarai, near the boundary of Cayenne; Fort S. Joachim on the Takutu, near its confluence with the Rio Branco, is merely a military post built in 1775, to protect the frontier from the incursions of the Spaniards. Several of these are merely mission stations, "which" says Captain Bonnycastle, "appear to be established principally to discover the country, and to encroach upon the Spanish part of it."

The exports are, sugar, cotton, coffee, cacao, cattle, tobacco, Brazil nuts, sarsaparilla, &c. The imports, provisions and manufactured goods from Europe and the United States.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The country near the mouth of the River Amazon was discovered by Vincente Jainez Pinzon, early in the sixteenth century, and more fully explored by succeeding adventurers. Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese expeditions visited the coasts, but the last nation alone founded settlements on its banks. These frequently suffered from the ravages of their jealous neighbours, especially during the wars between the mother countries in Europe. But the colony of Brazil, rich in vegetable and mineral wealth, was valuable to the small kingdom of Portugal; and in 1808, when the armies of Napoleon overran the country, the prince regent, John II., with a large party of emigrants, abandoned their homes, and sought refuge on the American shore. In 1821, the Portuguese constitution was adopted; and in the following year Don Pedro, son of the Portuguese monarch became emperor, and declared Brazil a free and independent nation.

The slave trade has lately been abolished, but slavery *still exists*; and since there has been difficulty in obtaining *the required supply* of negroes, the shameful practice of

enslaving the Indians is adopted. Expeditions, called *Deseimentos*, are sent out from the frontier forts of the empire, which, on approaching a village, hide in the forest till darkness has covered the earth, when they surround their sleeping victims, set fire to the huts, and drag the inmates to hopeless bondage. The exasperated natives sometimes retaliate by devastating the settlements on the rivers. This conduct of the Brazilians has caused many tribes to desert the land of their fathers and settle within the boundaries of the British territory, for even these naked children of the woods can understand that British hearts will grant, and British arms defend, their rights.

VENEZUELIAN OR SPANISH GUIANA;

Or, as it is now styled, Guiana of the Republic of Columbia, is bounded on the north by the Orinoco, on the west by the Orinoco to the 4th degree of N. lat.; thence by an imaginary line running due south from the rapids near San Fernando de Atabapo to the Sierra Cocoi, which, with the Sierra Parimé, marks the boundary between Venezuela and Brazil on its south to the borders of British Guiana, which bounds it on the east. This territory contains more than 200,000 square miles: its population is not known. The soil is remarkably fertile, and the greater part of the face of the country is covered with dense forests; small cultivated spots exist on the banks of the Orinoco and the Caroni.

The chief towns are Augostura or San Thomé de Augostura, situated on the Orinoco, about 240 miles from its mouth. It is the capital of Spanish Guiana, an episcopal city, and contains a population of about 8000. Corona, Borja, Piedra de la Patiencia, and Atures are also on the Orinoco.

The exports are sugar, cocoa, cotton, coffee, indigo, tobacco, hides, cattle, and horses.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The country near the River Orinoco was discovered and settled by the Spaniards at an early date; and Columbus himself, in his third voyage, explored the mouths of that great river. Before the middle of the sixteenth century

Venezuela was called a captaincy, whose governors were appointed by the Spanish monarchs. The exclusive and oppressive restrictions laid by the home government on its American colonies was the source of many complaints from the settlers. Failing to obtain redress, when the mother country was exerting all her energies to resist the French invasion in 1808, the colonists seized the opportunity to revolt, and declared their independence in 1811. Venezuela, in 1819, joined the other republics of Columbia, but separated from them in 1829; again joined for a short time in 1830, and has since remained an independent state under the title of the Republic of Venezuela.





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